

former Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt). Leahy called him "a living saint"

Short and rotund, "Father D'Ag," as some knew him, was quick to laugh but also had a temper, his friend James Desmond recalled. Desmond, former owner of a downtown bar called Beowulfs, one of the priest's haunts when he lived in Washington, recalled being with him in a meeting with congressional aides who were giving him the polite brush-off. When the priest realized what was happening, Desmond had to hustle him out the door before his temper got the best of him.

In 2001, Nyumbani became the first place in Africa to import deeply discounted AIDS drugs under an Indian pharmaceutical company's program to make such drugs more affordable on the continent where most of the world's AIDS patients live and die.

"I am sick and tired of doing funerals," Father D'Agostino told *The Washington Post*, explaining why he was willing to defy national regulations and international patent rules to buy cheaper, generic AIDS drugs.

"It's really the darker side of capitalism, the greed that is being manifest by these drug companies holding sub-Saharan Africa hostage," he told *The Post*. "People are dying because they can't afford their prices."

He also sued the Kenyan government for its policy banning HIV-positive children from the nation's public schools. He won that suit last year, which allowed more than 100,000 children to rejoin their classmates in schools across the country.

Angelo D'Agostino was one of six children born to Italian immigrants in Providence, R.I. His younger brother, Dr. Joseph D'Agostino of Fairfax, recalled that he had asthma as a child, so he spent a lot of time reading, making model airplanes and growing plants and flowers in the family's back yard.

He received his undergraduate degree in chemistry and philosophy from St. Michael's College in 1945 and his medical degree from Tufts University in 1949. He received a master of science degree in surgery from Tufts in 1953.

He served in the Air Force from 1953 to 1955 as chief of urology at Bolling Air Force Base. After attending a retreat with the Knights of Columbus, he decided to enter the priesthood in 1954, although the Jesuits at Georgetown asked him to take a year before making a final decision.

"The Jesuits couldn't use a urologist or kidney stone specialist," his brother recalled, "so they told him to go into psychiatry."

After a psychiatric residency at Georgetown from 1959 to 1965 and further work at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute from 1962 to 1967, he became one of the first American Jesuits to be trained as a psychiatrist. (He liked to say he had "more degrees than a thermometer," a nephew recalled.)

He was ordained in 1966, earlier than expected because the Jesuits were concerned that he was going to succumb to lupus, an illness he had battled his whole life.

He taught psychiatry at Georgetown University and George Washington University and in 1972 founded the Center for Religion and Psychiatry at the Washington Theological Union to promote dialogue between the two. From 1983 to 1987, he was in private practice in the District. A number of his clients were police officers, many whom he met over beers at Beowulfs.

Father D'Agostino helped administer refugee centers in Thailand and East Africa in the 1980s, but it was the lost children of Kenya who captured his heart and wouldn't let go. They called him "Faza."

He retired when he turned 80, "but it was retirement with a small 'r,'" Joe D'Agostino

said. "He still went to the office every day, although he was happy he didn't have to go to meetings anymore."

He will be buried in Kenya. His brother, his only immediate survivor, recalled that Father D'Agostino had only one regret about his adopted homeland: "He couldn't grow good tomatoes over there. Being a good Italian, that was important to him."

PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY ATTEND FATHER D'AGOSTINO'S REQUIEM MASS

President Mwai Kibaki and First Lady Lucy Kibaki Monday joined other mourners for the requiem mass for Rev. Father Angelo D'Agostino at the Consolata Shrine Catholic Church in Westlands, Nairobi.

The mass was conducted by Nairobi Archbishop Ndingi Mwana A'Nzeki.

Addressing the congregation, President Kibaki urged Kenyans to emulate Father D'Agostino and assist the less fortunate in the society.

He called on board members of Nyumbani Children's Home, Lea Toto and Nyumbani Village in Kitui to carry on with Father D'Agostino's work, ensuring that the homes are well maintained and succeed in serving the HIV/AIDS orphans.

President Kibaki said: "I am sure that is the assurance Father D'Agostino would have liked. He founded these homes and wanted them to succeed in reducing the prevalence and effects of HIV/AIDS."

"You should take the responsibility of ensuring that Father D'Agostino's work continues," the Head of State said.

Paying tribute to Father D'Agostino, the First Lady described him as a colleague in her work of caring for orphans and in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country.

She pointed out that Father D'Agostino played a pivotal role when she was setting up the Kenya Chapter of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFILA) by introducing her to key people and institutions helping in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

As the patron of Nyumbani Children Homes, the First Lady reassured the orphans that she will continue working hard to provide them with the resources they need.

The First Lady recalled conversations she had with U.S. President George W. Bush during a state dinner in Washington when the U.S. leader hailed the work done by Father D'Agostino in assisting vulnerable members of the Kenyan society.

The mass was also attended by the Pope's representative in Kenya Archbishop Alain Paul Lebeaupin among others.

TRIBUTE TO RON RUPP

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to recognize an outstanding Vermont public servant who goes above and beyond to advocate for better laws and protection to keep children safe from lead poisoning—the No. 1 environmental health threat affecting young children in the United States.

Ron Rupp serves as the current director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, VHCB, Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program and has played a major role in securing more than \$10 million in HUD funds for the State of Vermont for lead hazard control efforts. Having been with this program since its inception in 1994, Ron has worked to expand the availability and quality of training and as-

sistance for landlords and homeowners in order to reduce the hazards of lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint. Under his leadership, the program has provided comprehensive technical and financial assistance to make Vermont properties lead-safe. In addition to direct intervention, Ron has worked to expand education outreach efforts for the public on lead paint hazards, including training of construction and service workers, as well as property owners, and on the importance of testing young children for lead poisoning.

Ron's fight against childhood exposure to lead hazards is not limited to the State level. He has worked closely with the National Center for Healthy Housing to increase the overall body of knowledge on effective control of lead hazards and coauthored two papers on research into lead hazard control methods. Considered an expert on lead and environmental health, he has served as a reviewer for HUD's Lead Paint Safety Guide and other HUD documents.

The most common cause of lead poisoning is exposure to dust from deteriorated lead-based paint, the foremost cause of childhood lead poisoning, in old homes and buildings. Children are most frequently exposed to miniscule lead dust particles from chipping, peeling or flaking paint that cling to toys, fingers and other objects, leading young children to ingest the particles. Poisoning can also come from sources such as soil containing lead from car exhaust, water pipes, lead-glazed ceramic dishware, and plastic mini-blinds.

Too much lead in the body can cause damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system and red blood cells. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 million children living in the United States between the ages of 1 and 5 years have unacceptably high levels of lead in their blood, which may result in learning disabilities, reduced intellectual ability, behavioral problems, or other health problems. Poor children are at special risk because inadequate nutrition increases lead absorption by the body.

Ron's job is by no means an easy one, but he has done exceptional work advocating for better policies and practices so that Vermont's children can grow up in lead-free homes. My home State has the seventh oldest housing stock in the Nation—a real "Lead Leader." In the city of Burlington alone, housing units occupied by low-income residents constitute the highest concentration of older homes in Vermont. Significant lead paint hazards are characteristic of the deteriorated condition of many of these buildings. The result is that Burlington has a childhood lead poisoning rate that is more than double the national average.

Through the hard work of Ron and the VHCB Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program, Vermont is becoming a place where our children can grow up safe from lead poisoning. The

removal of lead hazards from our old homes and buildings is a slow process and success can be long in coming, but with dedicated public servants like Ron I have no doubt that success will indeed be met. Thank you, Ron, and congratulations to you for making Vermont's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program the continuing success it is today.

RETIREMENT OF SAM WHITEHORN

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a member of my staff who will be leaving the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation after more than 15 years working for this institution and more than 25 years of service to the American public. Sam Whitehorn has been my deputy staff director and general counsel on the Commerce Committee during the 109th Congress, but he has worked diligently for the committee's membership and many of our predecessors during more than a decade as senior counsel on the Aviation Subcommittee. I know Senators Jay Rockefeller, Fritz Hollings, and Wendell Ford hold Sam in the highest regard for his commitment to this institution and his efforts to pass legislation that established the United States as a world leader in aviation and transportation policy.

Sam's reputation as an expert and dogged proponent of aviation security, safety, and economic viability is known to everyone in the aviation community. His ability to negotiate and work in a bipartisan fashion has served the committee honorably, allowing aviation legislation to consistently move responsibly and timely. His accomplishments speak well of him: he has been involved in the passage of six Federal Aviation Administration Authorization, FAA, reauthorization bills during his tenure. While Sam has more recently expanded his reach to other major aspects of the Commerce Committee's agenda, aviation continues to have a special place in his heart.

This country and the aviation industry also have benefited from Sam's commitment to public service and his expertise on the issues during one of our most difficult times in modern history. After the horrible attacks of September 11, 2001, he helped lead the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which established the Transportation Security Administration, TSA. That legislation was instrumental in restoring public confidence in our aviation system.

He also played a central role in the development of legislation that currently funds the aviation system, efforts to advance the modernization of the National Airspace System, NAS, and promoted workplace reforms at the FAA which have helped place the agency on a more economically viable path. To put it simply, Sam Whitehorn's name is synonymous with aviation safety, security, and viability.

Prior to working for the Senate Commerce Committee, Sam worked at the

U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT, as a senior attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement where he represented the DOT on a host of aviation issues. Before that he was a staff attorney in the antitrust section of the Civil Aeronautics Board, CAB, the precursor to the FAA.

While Sam has a passion for aviation and has been truly devoted to the Senate Commerce Committee, nothing has been more important to him than his family. From his upbringing in New Hyde Park, NY, to the many years he has spent in his adopted hometown of Washington, DC, his close-knit family has been vital to his success. We have seen his dedication to his wife Carol, who has been extremely patient at times, and more recently saw him watch proudly as his son Michael and daughter Zoe went off to college. We greatly appreciate their willingness to share Sam with us for these many years.

As Sam retires from the Senate, we wish him nothing but the best. He will be missed, but his legacy will remain strong as we continue to tackle aviation issues in the future. I and this institution will miss him.

RETIRING U.S. ATTORNEY CHARLES LARSON, SR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to retiring U.S. Attorney Charles "Chuck" Larson, Sr. While I could easily just focus on all Chuck has done in his years as the dedicated U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, this man has given so much more in over 40 years of Government service.

When his country has called, Chuck has been there. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves for 40 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1989. Four U.S. Presidents have called on Chuck to serve in various capacities, and each time he has stepped forward and served with honor and distinction.

Chuck was first appointed as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and continued to serve in this position under President George H.W. Bush through 1993. During his service at this post, Chuck went well above and beyond. He devoted himself to fighting the scourge of drug crime and abuse by bringing local, State, and federal agencies together. Chuck also recognized the need for community outreach, and he pioneered a number of programs that brought together community leaders, clergy, and citizens to explore approaches to reduce drug abuse in Iowa.

These ideas were recognized as very innovative at the time and led to President Clinton's call for Chuck to serve on the Commission on Drug-Free Communities, a post in which Chuck served with distinction and which his son, Chuck, Jr., fills today.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Chuck was again called to duty as the U.S. Attorney in the

Northern District of Iowa by President Bush. He continued his aggressive and innovative strategies in this new and complex era of the war on terror. His efforts led to programs for the training of law enforcement and other emergency responders in dealing with and preventing terrorist attacks. Chuck extended this training effort to private industry and trade associations. Yet Chuck never ceased his efforts in Iowa in fighting crime and drug abuse. His past successes in community outreach programs and law enforcement coordination led to the creation of programs such as the "Weed and Seed" initiative in Cedar Rapids and the statewide "Meth and More" program. These programs not only helped put criminals behind bars but also provided help and support to thousands trapped in the destructive cycle of methamphetamine abuse and educated Iowa communities about the disastrous effects of drug abuse. His devotion to this cause can be summed up in Chuck's own words, "if we can save one life, then our efforts are a success."

In the midst of this, his country called yet again. In 2004, Mr. Larson was asked to serve as the senior Department of Justice representative in Iraq. Chuck was given the enormous task of directing and administering efforts to train Iraqi judiciary, law enforcement, and civilian contractors. He was tasked with nothing less than restoring justice and equity to the Iraqi judicial system. Despite the inherent dangers and complexities of his mission, Chuck yet again served with distinction.

Again, I offer my thanks and congratulations to U.S. Attorney Charles Larson, Sr. Chuck's dedication, devotion, and courage, again and again, provided invaluable service to our country and the great State of Iowa. Chuck, you are a true American and a model for all in Government service.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE GUMERSON ALTSHULER

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Katie Gumeron Altshuler, my staff director at the Senate Republican policy committee. Katie has decided to return to her native Oklahoma and begin a new life as chief of staff to the Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma Legislature.

Katie became staff director of the RPC earlier this year, in what was the culmination of an impressive climb through the ranks of Senate staff leadership dating back to 1995 when she served as an intern for Senator Don Nickles when she was still in college. When Katie graduated from Sweet Briar College 2 years later, Senator Nickles hired her first as a staff assistant and then as a legislative correspondent. And in 1999, he promoted her into the majority whip's office, where she quickly became well known in the Capitol as a floor assistant and policy adviser to Republican Senators.